



WELCOME TO OPEN HOUSE MISS DETRICK 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR PARENT GUIDE TO AMERICAN LITERATURE



PARENT COMMUNICATION:

Miss Sarah Detrick- English Teacher- detricks@wcsoh.org and Ms. Tina Poole- Intervention Specialist- poolec@wcsoh.org
Class Website: <http://missdetrick.wikispaces.com/>

Occasionally I may need to contact you, or you may need to contact me, directly about your student's performance in my class. I believe parent communication will help ensure the success of your child in my class this year! Please realize that e-mails sent to me sometimes go to SPAM. Please contact me again if needed. I will do my best to reply to any e-mails within 24 hours.

GOALS/ EXPECTATIONS:

Welcome to a new year at Westerville South High School! As your student's English teacher, I have high expectations for his/her growth over the next year. It is my goal to ensure competence in completing work, inspire students to take responsibility for their actions and work, help foster integrity and perseverance in the face of adversity, challenge students to have courage in sharing their thoughts, history and dreams, and most of all encourage the pursuit of knowledge inside and outside of school, textbooks and the Westerville community. I hope to introduce your student to places, stories and experiences they have yet to explore in order to reach these goals. Together we will form a community of learners and assist each other in the discovery of new ideas.

COURSE INFORMATION:

Level: 10th Grade

Length: 1 year, 1 period

Credit: 1.0

Approximate Cost: Up to \$30 for paperback books and periodicals (not to be collected at school)

American Literature and Composition is required for all tenth-grade students. The historical development and prevailing philosophies of American literature from the colonial period to the present provides the central focus for language study at this level. A chronological or thematic approach can be used. Readings will be chosen from a variety of literary genre, including nonfiction, fiction, poetry and drama. Emphasis will be placed on reading comprehension, analytical skills, research, and composition. Vocabulary, grammar, listening, reading, and visual literary skills will be correlated with the study of literature. Students will write in a variety of modes, including argumentative research and literary analysis. As part of the writing process, students will develop effective research and documentation skills. Students will complete oral presentations for a variety of purposes. This course counts as one credit toward the graduation requirement.

GENERAL LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of this course, students should know and be able to...

- Write in a variety of modes, including narrative, literary analysis, business, research, persuasive and informal. Emphasis will be placed on literary analysis, research and argument.
- Implement the steps of the writing process: prewriting, drafting, revising, editing and publishing.
- Apply effective research techniques to locate, evaluate, utilize and document credible and relevant information.
- Read and interpret a variety of literary forms: novels, short stories, poetry, drama, essays, articles, biographies and autobiographies.
- Use vocabulary, grammar and mechanics in the context of reading literature and writing about literature.
- Communicate orally in a variety of forms, analyzing and preparing for a variety of speaking and listening situations.

LITERATURE:



Elements of Literature Fifth Course

Other works and authors may include but not limited to:

The Crucible by Arthur Miller
Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck
The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Emily Dickinson; Ralph Waldo Emerson; William Faulkner; Robert Frost; Ernest Hemingway; Washington Irving; Edgar Allan Poe; Toni Morrison; Henry David Thoreau; Mark Twain; Alice Walker; Walt Whitman; Tennessee Williams

Independent reading novels to be selected by student

Other novels to be determined according to interest

GRADING AND ASSESSMENT POLICIES:

Grades are determined by points.

Students will have regular homework assignments, but the amount, type, and frequency will vary with each unit.

Students may also expect unannounced quizzes.

Students will be expected to keep an English notebook/folder. I will suggest a way to organize materials. Students will need to keep all graded and returned papers.

Students can also find helpful information on our course website: Class Website: <http://missdetrick.wikispaces.com/>. Homework, extra handouts, long-term assignments and other helpful links can be found on this site. If there is something you'd like added, please e-mail Miss D!



Student grades will be recorded in PowerSchool. Students and parents are encouraged to check grades periodically. Grades will not be updated daily, but rather weekly (larger assignments such as projects or formal papers may take longer). You can access the PowerSchool website through the Westerville City Schools website at www.westerville.k12.oh.us. The link is in the very top toolbar.

Because grades are posted online, I will not give students grade updates during class time but will be happy to make arrangements to meet with them after school.

Students may receive help from the teacher by contacting the teacher as to what times are available after school. Extra help is encouraged for any student! English tutors may also be available during study halls depending on the period.

ATTENDANCE POLICIES:

Students must attend and participate in all classes.

Previously *excused* absent students should see the folders for handouts on the assignment board. Additionally, students should check the assignment board for the day's activities. Students should check for this before coming to the teacher with questions. It is the responsibility of the student to make sure they receive any missing work. Students will have the same number of days to make-up work, as they have been absent from school. For example, if a student misses three days of class, they will have three days to make up any homework or assignments that were missed. I will arrange extra time with students, if necessary, on an individual basis. Students should be sure to write "Absent" along with the dates absent at the top of their make-up work, as to not be penalized for the late work. Students must arrange to take tests/quizzes that they missed with the teacher. Generally make-ups will only be given after school from 2:15-3pm. Make-up tests and quizzes need to be made up immediately or the student will receive a zero! Long-term assignments have firm deadlines. No extra time will be given to students who miss prior to a long-term due date. For example: if a student misses the day before a long-term assignment is due but has known about the assignment for multiple weeks, he/she will not be given extra time to complete the project. It will be due upon their return to school.

If an absence is unexcused, the student will receive a zero for each assignment missed.

Commitments to sports, band, field trips, or any other extra-curricular activities are not a reason to turn in work late.

Wow Cards/ Cats with Class:

Students can be recognized for good behavior at South!

Assignment Board:

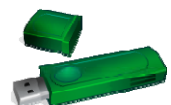
Every day assignments we will be working on and homework for the night are written down. Please encourage your student to use a planner!

Online Textbook:

Students can access their textbook online at my.hrw.com. They will need to register with their username and password given in class.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Folder designated for English only
- Notebook paper- college ruled
- Black or blue pen and pencil
- Highlighter
- Student planner (for logging and keeping track of assignments)
- Flash (USB) Drive- Can be purchased at any office supply store, or places like Target, Wal-Mart, Walgreen's etc. Prices range from \$1.00 and up depending on the size of the drive. A 1GB Flash drive is more than adequate. This will be helpful for all classes *throughout* your student's four years in high school.
- Independent reading novel selected by student and approved by Miss Detrick or Mrs. King
- Up to \$30 for paperback books (not collected at school). I highly recommend purchasing these books online from places such as amazon.com, half.com (powered by EBay), or Barnes and Noble (bn.com). These sites offer used books from as low as \$0.47! As always, Half Price Books in Westerville is also a good place to look for a good deal. If you buy online, try to package all together for reduced shipping costs too! No books need to be purchased at this time.
- If you have trouble obtaining any of these materials please send me an e-mail!



Because of the spread of germs and the threat of the flu season looming, we are in need of tissues and hand sanitizer. If possible, please donate a box of tissues and/or a bottle of hand sanitizer for use in this classroom. Thank you!